



## **MEETING SUMMARY**

### **January 27, 2012**

A regular *public meeting* of the New Jersey State Interagency Coordinating Council was held on Friday, January 27, 2012, at Children's Specialized Hospital in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m. by Warren Moore, Acting Chair, who presided.

#### **ATTENDANCE – Attached**

#### **WELCOME/ACTING CHAIR REPORT – Warren Moore**

1. Mr. Moore *welcomed all attendees*, including those at the off-premise sites in Hamilton and Mountainside. At his request, SICC members and 19 public members introduced themselves and identified their connection with early intervention.
2. Mr. Moore briefly outlined the *structure* adopted during a morning session with the members under which the Council will now function with four standing committees: (a) Administrative, (b) Family Support, (c) Service Delivery, (d) Early Learning Challenge.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the November 18, 2011 meeting were approved as distributed – upon motion by Joseph Holahan, seconded by Chanell McDevitt and carried.

#### **NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES**

Terry Harrison, Part C Coordinator, New Jersey Early Intervention System

1. *Part C* of the IDEA FFY 2012 Federal budget has been increased by \$4M to \$442,709,694. It is not known at this time how the increase will affect New Jersey's award, since the funds are allocated using a census formula.
2. Distributed/discussed were *Family Cost Participation Reports 1/26/12* (attached to file copy): (a) revenue by statement date, (b) suspensions by month delinquent letter generated, (c) by month child exited EI, (d) by month child exited EI with FPL. It is projected that family cost participation revenue for SFY 2012 will reach \$6M and Medicaid recovery about \$27M.

3. Alvina Seto, *Procedural Safeguards* Coordinator, distributed/commented on several aspects of the activity report since the Council's last meeting (attached to file copy).
4. Ms. Harrison reviewed the *New Jersey Early Intervention System Part C Annual Performance Report (Birth to Three), Federal Fiscal Year 2010-2011*, summarizing Indicators 1 through 14 (89 pages, 5 graphs) – distributed/attached to file copy. It was the SICC's responsibility to either (a) submit its own annual report to the Federal Government and New Jersey Governor Christie, or (b) provide certification with the Lead Agency's Annual Performance Report. **The Council authorized Acting Chair Moore to sign the official document, certifying that the SICC reviewed and accepted the report in lieu of submitting a separate annual report** (attached to file copy).
5. Ms. Harrison gave a power-point presentation on the *new regulations governing the Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* released by the U. S. Department of Education on September 28, 2011. (A hard copy and a side-by-side comparison of the new and 1999 regulations were distributed – attached to file copy.) The new Part C regulations contain numerous changes and additions, with a focus on improving services and outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. Stressed was the responsibility of understanding and implementing the new regulations, which must be implemented by July 1, 2012.

## MISCELLANEOUS

1. Barbara Tkach reported that New Jersey ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in the final selection and was not one of nine states to receive grant awards from the \$500 million *Race-to-the Top—Early Learning Challenge* fund, a competitive grant program jointly administered by the U. S. Department of Education and Health and Human Services. The extensive work of this project will be ongoing in New Jersey. At its early bird session, the SICC created a standing committee to support this initiative.
2. Agenda items with no reports: (a) Update from REICs, (b) Old Business, (c) New Business.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

1. *David Holmes, interim Executive Director of ABCD/Early Intervention Providers Association (EIPA)* ... (a) Dan Keating has been named Executive Director, effective February 6<sup>th</sup>. (b) Attendance at the Part C meeting was very beneficial. (c) Expressed concern of EIPA members over “Vendor—Comprehensive—Rotation” of services for children and their families; requested the Lead Agency analyze/clarify/discuss NJEIS-09 Policy and Procedure – which, he alleged, is proving burdensome and counter-productive for quality services to children and their families.

2. *Donna Castellano, CPNJ* ... Expressed concerns with the issues presented by Mr. Holmes.
3. *Anne Breakey, Archway*... Expressed concerns voiced by previous speakers.
4. *Donna Maher, Sunny Days* ... Voiced support of previous speakers; urged return of “two comprehensives providing support”.
5. *Cynthia Newman, New Jersey Cares REIC* ... Stressed the positive aspects of the NJEIS-09 policy in her region; urged providers to wait until the end of the fiscal year for protestations.

Ms. Harrison addressed these issues, responding to individual questions and confirming the Lead Agency’s awareness of the provider concerns – which, she said, could be attributed to misinterpretation of the NJEIS-09 policy. She cautioned restraint, while the policy is being re-examined/clarified by the Lead Agency.

Council agreed that this issue could be referred to the Service Delivery Committee, once its membership/chairmanship is established.

**ADJOURNMENT** – 1:40 p.m.

Upon motion by Ms. Murray, seconded by Danielle Thomas and carried.

***APPROVED***  
***3.30.12***